



# SMOKE SIGNALS



## The Newsletter of 2nd Farnborough Scout Group

### "From The GSL" Annual Review 2015

Welcome to our special 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of Smoke Signals. I am pleased to say we have had another brilliant year. Numbers are up again and we are at capacity in Beavers and Cubs. In September we will have 13 scouts and have a healthy waiting list of Beavers waiting to join. We now have 10 girls in the group 5 in Scouts, 3 in Cubs and 2 in Beavers. I am delighted that all sections have entered all the District competitions over the past year and had many successes. I really enjoyed visiting both Cub and Scout camps last summer it was good to see them enjoying the various activities and using the skills they had learnt. I am looking forward to Tolmers, District Camp in September and the Beaver sleepover in October this year. It was brilliant to be at the Chief Scout Awards presentation evening to see Thea, RJ, Ryan, Owen and James receive their certificates. I am glad to say even with the challenges of the new badge criteria, we will have some recipients at next year's ceremony.



Thanks to everyone who came to our 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday party it was well attended and everyone enjoyed the

family games and quiz it was a great way to celebrate. It was lovely that the DC and so many ex-leaders were able to attend. Congratulations to the ex-Cherokee leaders team who won the quiz. We were granted a special badge which looks great on everyone's uniform and a new group badge for the scarf. All sections look really smart wearing the same badges. Word has got round about us and what we get up to and we have lots of enquiries about joining it would be great for us to be able to take everyone but to do so we will need another Leader in each section so this will be my focus in

the coming months.

We have continued with fundraising this year, which has helped with the refurbishment of the hut and to keep subs down. Thanks to everyone who has supported us with the sponsored Fright Night Hike, bucket collections at B and Q, Sainsbury's card making and The Donkey Derby. We have continued to support Farnborough Foodbank our dedicated charity this year. Our biggest income is from Gift Aid. If you are a taxpayer we can claim 25p in the £ back against subs all you need do is fill in a form so if you are new and have not signed up yet please ask your leader for a form.

Our hut is looking good with a solid roof, an extra room, storage area, newly refurbished kitchen and new cooker. We were able to obtain a grant enabling us to install a disabled toilet, replace the shiplap on the outside of the hut and build a ramp which for us to get both pushchairs and wheelchairs into the building. I cannot thank the Monday Crew enough for their brilliant work over the past 18 months. I would also like to thank the District and Npp Installations whose financial contributions and donations have enabled us to get these improvements done.

Finally thank you to my leaders YL and helpers for all their hard work over the past year making this group what it is thank you Steve, Graham, Emer, Abby, Verity, Alex and all the parents who took their turn on the parent rotas. Thank you also to Becky and the District team for their support, and to my executive committee Emer, Coral, Kenna, Sue, Mandy, Paula, Sharon, Marisa and Henrietta who have had a very busy year helping us make the past year a resounding success.



## "The Beavers Log" Annual Review 2015

The Beavers have been really busy as usual. We normally start the new programme in September but in order to gain their Gardeners Badge they had to look after their miniature gardens (which they planted in June) through the Summer holidays. The finished articles were brilliant very different from before we certainly have some great gardeners in the colony and they have the badges to prove it. This year we retained the Buttercup Cup, Liam was presented with it at Squires garden centre at the beginning of September. We spent the first week in October caving at Runways End. Abby went down into the cave with them and although it was the first time we had experienced the new caves it was all smiles when they came out. Everyone enjoyed the backwoods cooking of bread but not so much the eating. Some great costumes were worn for the Halloween fright Night Hike around Southwood Woodland this was the first activity for the 2 new Beavers and they really enjoyed it. Thanks to everyone who came along and walked with us and sponsored Beavers to complete the course.

In November Val ADC Beavers showed the Beavers how to make edible campfires, they also had the opportunity to earn the hobbies and collectors badges by doing a short presentation to the rest of the colony.

On a chilly night in December the Beavers attended District campfire where all the colonies did a Christmas song we sang ours brilliantly and really deserved the hot chocolate afterwards. Who would have thought the Beavers were so competitive but The Christmas Bowling party certainly brought it out and it all ended very close.

In January new challenge and activity badges were introduced most Beavers have transferred to the new system but a few are still working on the old criteria which will enable them to achieve their Bronze Chief Scout Award. We usually do most of our creative work in Spring and this term is no different – we have decorated biscuits, tried tie dyeing, made bird feeders and for Chinese



new year made Dragons and learnt about traditions and customs. We have also fitted in a fitness evening, archery session, an evening of "donutting" and a group visit to Lazer run. Congratulations to Ryan, RJ, Thea and Owen who collected their Chief Scout Award Bronze Certificates at the Awards Evening at Samuel Cody School in February – well done.

12 Beavers completed the annual District Beaver Hike in March walking from The Wellington Statue up to Ceasars Camp and back a trek of almost 4 miles. All Beavers who took part gained their Hikes away and Explore badges. Thank you to all the parents who walked with us. Also in March we had a visit from PC Andrea Shoetan and PCSO Gordon Pengilly who spoke about their different roles, how we can help them in their jobs and stranger danger. They also showed their equipment which the Beavers were allowed to try out.

The Summer term started with our 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday party which many of the Beavers attended and renewed their promise. 3 Beavers swam up to

Cubs and 5 new Beavers joined the colony. We also

welcomed Ashleigh and Kaylum who are assisting

as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We

broke them in gently by asking them to help the

Beavers decorate biscuits in

the shape of a spiders web and playing parachute games. We had to wait a long time to get on the Farm to Fork Trail at Tesco's but our turn came at the end of May. We had a tour of the Fish, Cheese and Produce departments went in the freezer, chillers and tasted foods. They really enjoyed seeing the octopus and crab and going inside the freezer which was -18 degrees. Last week 12 Beavers joined the rest of group canoeing with Blackwater Valley Canoe Club. For most of them it was their first experience but you would not have thought it watching from the side. It was a brilliant evening and I have already been asked when we will be doing it again.

Congratulations to Bayley, Mitchell, Joshua, Jonathan and Phoebe for coming 2<sup>nd</sup> overall at Sports day last week.



## "Cubs Howl" Annual Review 2015

Cubs had a great Camp in Frimley Lodge Park on the hottest weekend of the year. It was packed full of activities which included tracking, map reading, hiking, orienteering, assault course, a round of golf, a ride on the miniature railway, wide games and a campfire. It's amazing what you can fit into a weekend! We continued with the camp theme after the holidays and were able to finish off the Chef and Navigator



badges. We welcomed 2 Beavers into the pack. Emily and Conifer attended the Rushmoor in Bloom presentation at Princes Hall and received a silver gilt status certificate for our Hoover entry.

October was a very busy month with the Handcraft Competition where the Cubs came second. Well done Sarah, Ryan, Emily and Lauren. Also in October was Jamboree on the Internet, District Night Hike, shooting, Fright Night sleepover and Hike around Hawley Lake. Thanks to all who sponsored us and helped with all these events.

In November the Cubs used their firefighting skills, to build a fire to burn their guys and made marshmallow smores. I was impressed most remembered how to light a fire and how to make it safe. A few Cubs gained their swimmer badge which was good preparation for the swimming Gala where our team did their best by all gaining places in the heats but unfortunately not in the finals. The following week the Cubs joined Scouts for some Scuba diving with Divecrew at Farnborough Leisure Centre an activity we will definitely be doing again. The Cubs who did not go, entered the District Indoor Games Competition and came away with second place well done Owen, RJ and Michael.

District Carol Service clashed with school plays so not many Cubs were able to attend but those who were there did us proud. 6 Cubs went to the young Leaders First Aid workshop and gained the Emergency Aid 2 badge. The Christmas party was bowling at Farnborough Bowl everyone was really competitive and the scores were really close.

The Cherokees had a very busy Spring term and 2 Beavers swam up to Cubs. There have been 3 District events this term – Chess where we had one competitor in the older age group who played well

and won one game, 6 a side football where we played very well, but missed out on going forward on goal difference, and finally the Entertainers Badge Day. Five Cubs took part in this new venture, the morning was spent in 6 workshops which included mime, drumming, acting and make up. In the afternoon the Cubs rehearsed 6 scenes from Aladdin which they performed to the parents at the end of the day. All the Cubs that attended gained the Entertainers Badge. Well done Cubs.

During our meetings Cubs learnt about Braille and played blind football as part of the Disability Awareness badge. They also made some dragons, acted out some traditions and played Chinese games for New Year. Derek, who does injury simulation, came and spoke about First Aid and showed the Cubs how to make a fake wound. A Police officer and a PCSO also came and talked about how we can help them in their jobs and some Cubs were able to try out their handcuffs and bullet proof jackets. We also spent an evening fitness training, completed an archery session, an evening of football skills and joined in our group sessions of "donutting" and Lazer Run.

Our first activity of the summer term was our 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday party where all the Cubs renewed their promise, took part in the family games and quiz. The Cubs enjoyed their visit to Tesco to follow the Farm to Fork Trail especially the gutting of the fish and the time spent in the freezer and chiller. This was the first activity for the 3 new Cubs who joined us from Beavers. The next 2 weeks the pack started the new pioneer badge with some knot tying and ballista making. The



Cherokees went over to Moor Road park on 2 occasions once for some team games and secondly to gain the athletes badge and to practice for Sports Day. Also during the term the Cubs worked on the new Skills and Teamwork Challenge badges and spent an evening canoeing, kayaking and paddle boarding which were new experiences for many of Cubs and they really enjoyed it. Well done to the Cubs who attended Sports day we were able to enter every race with Michael winning the 100m.

## “Scouts Adventure” Annual Review 2015

Brilliant Camp again at Tolmers in August, the weather couldn't have been better. The Scouts took part in all the activities including raft building, canoeing, zorbing, climbing, abseiling, go karting, swimming and hiking. We are going again this year.

We continued the activities theme throughout the term the first one being Rifle shooting. Everyone enjoyed the evening and Tom came out on top. Something we have not tried before was an emergency scenario. At first the scouts were in shock but by the end of the evening they had learnt the correct procedures and were shown how to make a fake wound look lifelike.



Next was Jamboree on the Internet where the Scouts contacted Scouts in other countries. We made contact with members in China, Canada, USA, Australia and Europe. They used the information they found to run an evening with other scouts and by doing so gained the Global Challenge. Most of the Scouts took part in the Fright Night Hike and some of the costumes were very imaginative, Thanks to everyone who dressed up and walked with us. The evening ended with a fish and chip supper a film and sleepover but even though the Scouts must have been tired not much sleeping went on.

November's activities started with an evening of Archery and ended with Scuba diving. Both were really enjoyable and ones we will be doing again. The Christmas party was trampolining at Gravity Force. Afterwards it was off to KFC then back to the hut for darts snooker and table tennis.

Spring term started with 3 Cubs leaping across and their first activity was shooting at Runways End. The next few weeks were spent preparing for the Night hike refreshing compass, mapping,

teamwork, first aid and knotting skills. All but one of the Scouts took part on the hike in Farnham Park on a very cold evening in February where we split into 2 groups to complete the course. It was a very enjoyable evening ending with hot dogs and hot chocolate back at base. The Troop attended the group “donutting” at the Alpine Ski Centre. The following week the Cubs joined us for football training at Wavell School in preparation for their District 6-a-side competition. Len Scott came down and spent an evening with us doing knots and lashings. The evening ended with building a triangular swing which held out until all the Scouts had taken their turn. The last week of term was spent with the other sections at Lazer Run.

In the first 4 weeks of Summer Term 2 more Cubs left across. We spent these weeks improving fitness as part of the new Skills Challenge finalising in the Scouts completing the Trim trail at Frimley Lodge Park. While there, we also completed the Athletes Badge and 4 Scouts gained the athletes Plus badge. We had an enjoyable evening learning new skills when Barry Ward and Tony Peters the District Scout Leaders



taught us how to use axes, knives and saws. The troop really enjoyed their session of climbing at Runways End in May everyone worked as a team and tried their best to get as far up the tower as they could, Tallie, James and Emily did really well by reaching the top.

Also this term we have been canoeing kayaking and paddle boarding, 5 Scouts represented us at District Sports Day, well done everyone congratulations to Lauren for coming 1<sup>st</sup> in the standing jump.

### Join The Adventure @ 2nd Farnborough

Every year Scouting helps 400,000 young people in the UK enjoy new adventures, to experience the outdoors, interact with others, gain confidence and have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

2nd Farnborough always has it's doors open to new members,

whether they want to be a Scout, volunteer to be a Leader or join the Executive Committee. If you would like more information about joining, please speak to a Leader who will then be able to give you more information. Alternatively, you can email us at: [info@2ndfarnborough.org.uk](mailto:info@2ndfarnborough.org.uk).

### About This Issue

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